

Dear Esteemed Members of the Federal Communications Commission;

I am writing to urge you to voice your opposition to AT&T's proposed takeover of T-Mobile.

As a proud resident of Haverhill, Massachusetts I believe this acquisition will have a negative effect on innovation in the wireless industry, decrease choices available to consumers, and eliminate jobs.

For the past two years, my family has used Verizon Wireless. We've been met with hefty monthly fees and downright horrible customer service despite the fantastic coverage. Fortunately, now that our two-year contract is up, we have the privilege of shopping around at the other three major wireless providers for a better deal. We settled on T-mobile because of the wonderful customer service reviews, affordable prices, and expansive choice in phones, even though coverage may not be perfect. I strongly believe that the reason T-mobile can offer such fantastic services is because of the healthy competition between it and Sprint, At&t, and Verizon.

It should be known that my family is of relatively low income, one of the main reasons we are leaving Verizon. One of my main concerns with this merger is the possible disappearance of reasonably priced service, which will lock low-income families like mine out of possibly even using cell phones. I would hate to see cell phone plans become another kind of necessary welfare because low income families can no longer afford them on their own.

At&t has had run-ins over anti-trust and monopoly issues in the past, and I can only see this merger leading to a duopoly of At&t and Verizon. Without getting too technical, At&t and T-mobile use a certain kind of signal, while Verizon and Sprint use another. Given that At&t will overshadow Verizon as the largest carrier if this acquisition goes through, what is to stop Verizon from simply buying up Sprint? When these sorts of mergers happen, it is not only customers that suffer. My brother has worked at T-mobile for years and is now uncertain of his future employment. If our country is committed to creating more jobs instead of destroying ones that currently exist, this merger cannot happen.

The two smaller wireless companies - T-mobile and Sprint - have been leaders in innovation; T-mobile was the first to carry Android phones, and was able to take that risk because it was not one of the giants. I fear the loss of innovation and choice in our future without these companies.

If this takeover is allowed to occur, AT&T and Verizon will control nearly 80 percent of the wireless industry revenues. Furthermore, eliminating T-Mobile would remove one of the country's leading value-oriented nationwide carriers. It is rigorous competition, not a marketplace dominated by a duopoly, that drives companies to use their technological expertise to improve and advance their service. I sincerely believe that the AT&T takeover of T-Mobile must be rejected to continue the level of wireless competition that has brought countless benefits and opportunities to American businesses and families.

Sincerely,  
Alexandra A Martinez